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Message Text

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71
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 IO-03 ACDA-08 INT-01 COME-00 PC-04

USIA-12 DODE-00 AGR-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 /108 W
---------- 126723
P 021300Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

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AFDROUGHT

EO 11652: NA
SUBJECT: US GRAIN SHIPMENTS TO MAURITANIA

REF: DAKAR 4310 AND 4376, STATE 192012, NOUAKCHOTT 901

ACTION REQUESTED: ADVISE WHETHER EARLY SEA SHIPMENT OF 3-5,000 TONS BY CHARTER FROM DAKAR TO NOUAKCHOTT IS FEASIBLE AND, IF SO, ETA NOUAKCHOTT. ALSO COMMENT ON TONNAGE DELIVERABLE WEEKLY BY SURFACE.

1. GIRM MINHEALTH OCTOBER 1 AGAIN REQUESTED THAT MAXIMUM OF 18,000 TONS WE PROVIDING BILATERALLY BE TRANSSHIPPED FROM DAKAR TO NOUAKCHOTT WHARF. STATED THAT LAST SPRING 600 TONS PER WEEK WAS MAXIMUM DELIVERY RATE ATTAINED BY COMBINATION ROAD/TRAIN FROM DAKAR TO BORDER TOWN OF ROSSO AND THIS NOT RAPID ENOUGHT FOR HIS NEEDS. MINISTER SAID HE HOPED AS MUCH AS 5,000 TONS COULD ARRIVE AT ONCE SINCE SMALL COASTAL VESSELS LIFTING ONLY SEVERAL HUNDRED TONS COMPLICATED HANDLING ARRANGEMENTS AT WHARF.

2. HE ALSO SAID DELIVERY IN ROSSO PUT EXTRA BURDEN ON HIS TRANSPORT SYSTEM WHICH WAS ORGANIZED TO SUPPLY INTERIOR
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FROM NOUAKCHOTT AND UNDERLINED THAT ROSSO STORAGE CAPAITY WAS ONLY 4,000 TONS ALL PRODUCTS.

3. REPLIED THAT WE AWARE HIS INTEREST IN HAVING AT LEAST

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PART OF THIS TONNAGE ARRIVE BY SEA (REFTELS), BUT I UNINFORMED RE AVAILABILITY OF CHARTER DAKAR/NOUAKCHOTT WHICH WOULD CARRY SEVERAL THOUSAND TONS. SAID I WOULD REMIND AID/DAKAR AND WASHINGTON OF HIS DESIRES IMMEDIATELY.

4. WFP REP POLLARIS ADVISES THAT HIS RECORDS INDICATE SHIPMENTS DESTINED MAURITANIA ARRIVING DAKAR LAST SPRING WERE UNDERWAY WITHIN FIVE WEEKS OF THEIR ARRIVAL IN DAKAR PORT. HE HAD NO FIGURES DOCUMENTING DELIVERY DATES ROSSO, BUT UNDERSTOOD THERE HAD BEEN DELAYS AT ST. LOUIS FOR CARGOS DESTINED FOR MAURITANIA.

5. COMMENT: MINISTER SHOULD NOT HAVE INSUPERABLE PROBLEMS HANDLING SHIPMENTS ARRIVING BY TRAIN/TRUCK ROSSO FROM DAKAR. AS OUR 901 STATED, ESSENTIAL IS EARLIEST POSSIBLE DELIVERY IN COUNTRY WHICH WE ASSUMED MEANT SURFACE DELIVERIES. TO BE RESPONSIVE TO MINISTER, HOWEVER, REQUEST EMBASSY DAKAR COMMENT ON FOLLOWING:

A. EVIDENCE OF ANY PRESENT TRANSPORT BOTTLENECKS BETWEEN DAKAR/ROSSO; ETAS OF FIRST TRUCKS TO BE DISPATCHED; MAXIMUM ESTIMATED DELIVERY RATE ROSSO.

B. FEASIBILITY OF SEA CHARTER.

C. ITS ETA NOUAKCHOTT WHARF.

D. ANY LIKELIHOOD THAT WITH SENEGALESE HARVEST STARTING IN NEXT FEW WEEKS THIS WILL LIMIT MAURITANIA'S KKCESS TO SENEGAL'S SURFACE TRANSPORT FACILITIES.

DECON 9/1/74
MURPHY

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